

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
People
to
People Scrutiny Committee
on
11th July 2017**

Report prepared by: Brin Martin
Director of Learning

Schools Progress Report

**People Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Courtenay**

1. Purpose of Report

- To inform members of the current position with regard to the performance of all schools, including those schools causing concern, and to update on known Academy developments.

2. Recommendations

- For members to note and approve the information in the report.

3. Inspections

In the period since the previous School Progress Report (11.4.17) there has been a number of further inspections of various kinds. Barons Court Primary School was inspected, and has improved their judgement from good to outstanding. Under the more robust current framework this is a very strong achievement. In addition there has been two section 8 inspections, which do not carry an overall judgement. Cecil Jones Academy has undertaken a no notice inspection, and the outcome letter indicated that the school is making positive progress on its journey to be removed from a category. Equally, Our lady of Lourdes received a section 8 inspection as a result of the previous inadequate safeguarding inspection. The report concluded that "safeguarding is now effective". It went on to say "You have drawn on effective support from the local authority, outlined in the local authority action plan. ... This support has been helpful in making the necessary improvements." Lastly, St Christopher's Academy received a recent inspection. The school was previously outstanding, although the published report is not yet in the public domain.

These outcomes are very positive for the pupils and schools involved, and a credit to the leadership, staff and governors involved. However, due to the way OFSTED calculates the percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding schools, none of them

affect the numbers recorded nationally for Southend on Sea. Currently, on latest published figures, nearly 85% of pupils attend either a good or outstanding school in Southend. Southend calculates the “true” actual % of pupils attending a school, irrespective of the fact that they may have “lost” their OFSTED judgement status on conversion or sponsorship to an academy.

Academy Transition

Secondary Education

Of the 12 Southend secondary schools, the remaining maintained secondary school, Southchurch/Futures, we are now anticipating Education Funding Agency approval to convert to become an academy sponsored by Partnership Learning anticipated to come into effect from 1st September 2017.

Special Education

It would appear that finally the situation regarding Seabrook College has now been resolved, and they become part of a Multi Academy Trust consisting of a special school and a pupil referral unit, sponsored by Parallel Learning Trust, with effect from 1st July 2017. Significant energy has gone into this conversion, and it is hoped that the “new2 schools, **Victory Park** (the alternative provision schools) and **Sutton House Academy** (the SEMH special school) can now focus their energy on making the rapid improvements required for some of our most vulnerable learners.

The four other Southend special schools, St Christopher’s, Lancaster, Kingsdown and St Nicholas have received their academy order to form a multi academy trust, and are progressing towards conversion on 1st September 2017.

Primary Education

The remaining maintained primary schools are all actively exploring academy options.

Bournes Green Junior School and Richmond Avenue Primary School are progressing towards becoming part of the Southend East Community Academy Trust (SECAT), likely start date 1st August 2017.

The situation regarding Our Lady of Lourdes remains unclear. The Catholic Dioceses of Brentwood will determine, subject to the approval of the Regional School Commissioner, a suitable sponsor.

The Westbrough Academy, previously a standalone Single Academy Trust has now become part of the Challenger Multi Academy Trust from 1st July 2017.

Lastly, Temple Sutton has declared its intention to join the Learning in Harmony Trust, although no date for conversion has yet been approved by the RSC.

Overall School Performance

As part of the Council’s Education Board and school performance monitoring, detailed scrutiny of the current performance data and intelligence on all schools takes place once validated data becomes available (September KS2 and January KS4). A risk register of

school performance is maintained on a regular basis, constructed alongside representative Headteachers and the RSC. Targeted intervention and support in maintained schools is taking place, and a monthly meeting with the RSC team in turn challenges academies who are underperforming yet outside of the remit of the Council.

As a result of Department funding announcements, Education Board has very recently made substantive bids for additional funding to support specific and targeted improvement work. Board have submitted two bids, the first for narrowing the attainment gap in Primary reading between disadvantaged pupils and their peers; the second to raise the attainment of Children Looked after. Further bids may follow.

4. Other Options

N/A

5. Reasons for Recommendations

N/A

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

This report contributes to the Council's ambition that all schools will be good or outstanding.

6.2 Financial Implications

None

6.3 Legal Implications

None

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

None

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

6.8 Risk Assessment

None

6.9 Value for Money

None

6.10 Community Safety Implications

None

6.11 Environmental Impact

None

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

None